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Dear Parent/Carer

**RE: End of 2021 Academic Year**

Where do you begin with a letter that is supposed to sum up the year we have just had! In a very simple way we have all done our best, and I thank you massively for that. I won't even begin with the superlatives - we have all heard of unprecedented, challenging & it's coming home! In recent times this challenge has meant a return to students isolating and working remotely. We appreciate the impact this has on everyone and I thank you for working with us. Everything that has been thrown at us we have dealt with, with your child's best intentions at the forefront of every decision we have made; from online learning, well being calls, updates, food vouchers, IT provision and general support wherever we can help.

Our focus is based completely on ensuring we minimise and eradicate any impact the pandemic has had on your child's education and progress, and all staff are working closely with your children to identify any gaps from this. After this year I am pleased to say that these appear to be minimal due to the excellent on-line bespoke package of remote learning we carried out, which with your support had exceptional uptake. Once again I thank you for your continued support.

Even during these strange times, students at the academy have shone; students have been involved in an NHS charity single, took part in an FA backed girls football event with professional players, there have been a number of outstanding individual acts of kindness and fundraising by students throughout the year, and we were also ASDA's chosen recipient for laptops to support students at the academy. Students have also been heavily involved in their roles in shaping and informing policies and decisions within the academy as part of a student ambassador programme which has included representing the academy on a number of national television programmes.

As we look forward to the summer and a return in September can I ask that you check the website regularly, as any updates or changes will be flagged there when needed. There is already a great deal of useful information on the site including additional work students can complete over the summer; as well as support from a range of agencies we have signposted on the website under [Family Support](#).

It is our intention to move to a fully paperless system for communicating with parents and carers, to allow us to reduce our carbon footprint and help us work in a more sustainable way, as well as allowing us to save money that can be better utilised for your children. More details and options will be made available in the new academic year.

Students returning after summer will notice some major investments and developments at the academy as well. A new Astro turf will be installed, giving us the most up to date playing surface in the region, with new lighting and storage. A new all weather canopy will be installed at the front of the academy, in direct response to students asking for an area outside that is usable even in poor weather conditions. Purpose built art studios are being developed within the academy, as well as a new state of the art multi gym.

A few key points to bring to your attention at this time:

- As per Government guidelines, the academy will not be continuing to provide Lateral Flow tests over the summer but if you wish to continue this at home, more tests can be obtained from local pharmacies and test sites.
- A reminder again that as we continue to return to more normal days, can you please speak to your child about the need for vigilance and an awareness of traffic as they make their way to and from the academy. The amount of traffic continues to build as restrictions are eased further and students need to be aware of their surroundings and avoid being distracted when crossing the road. Where possible, please also advise your child to walk in groups and stay on the main roads.
- I would also like to ask that parents take this summer break to ensure students have all the necessary items of clothing to be able to adhere to the Academy's uniform policy. In particular, please ensure hoodies and trainers are not worn once school recommences in September and chains/necklaces are not worn or visible on top of the uniform. Also as we come into the warmer weather at this time of the year, check that skirt lengths are at knee level, as noted in the Uniform policy on the academy website.
- The last day of this term will be **Friday 23 July**, where the academy will be running a half day provision with all students leaving site at midday.

### **Information for the new Academic Year**

#### **Mass Testing/Staggered Return**

In line with Government guidance we have been asked to conduct mass testing of students as they return in September which will necessitate a staggered start for your child. The mass testing will consist of 2 lateral flow tests conducted on our school site which parents will need to consent to **prior** to the return dates listed below. If parents/carers have opted in, their child will attend school on their first date as noted below to be tested only, and will return home straight after this test. Students will then have their first full day in school on the 2nd date shown below with their 2nd test conducted later in the week. More details will follow on how to sign your child up to the testing programme, as well as the time that your child's test will be carried out. **Only students who have signed up for a test will be expected to attend on the test date (first date shown below) and they will only be required to stay for approximately 30 minutes.**

Year Group	Testing Date	Time	Start Date	Time
Year 7	Friday 3rd September 2021	TBC	Monday 6th September 2021	8.20am
Year 8	Tuesday 7th September 2021	TBC	Wednesday 8th September 2021	8.20am
Year 9	Wednesday 8th September 2021	TBC	Thursday 9th September 2021	8.20am
Year 10	Wednesday 8th September 2021	TBC	Thursday 9th September 2021	8.20am
Year 11	Monday 6th September 2021	TBC	Tuesday 7th September 2021	8.20am
Year 12	Monday 6th September 2021	TBC	Tuesday 7th September 2021	8.20am
Year 13	Monday 6th September 2021	TBC	Tuesday 7th September 2021	10.50am

**Academy Start/End times and Enrichment for September 2021-22**

As we look to the return of students to the academy in September we will be reverting back to normal start times for ALL students which will be gates open at **08:20** and students expected to be in classrooms by **08:25** at the latest to begin their lessons - your support in helping us making a prompt start to the day's learning is appreciated.

Finish times for ALL students will also be reverting to normal which is **14:50** on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. As normal the school day on Wednesday will finish at **13:50** for all students who are not signed up for enrichment activities or students in year 11. To support a broad and balanced curriculum offer we will be launching an exciting new range of enrichment opportunities for Wednesday afternoons, more details of which will follow including instructions on how to sign up.

As we have seen from recent times, predicting what might happen in the future is a risky exercise, I can however confirm that your child's wellbeing and education will remain our prime focus. With your continued support of the academy and its values I know we will continue to be successful and this equally applies to the latest members of the academy who we look forward to welcoming in September. Please have a restful and safe summer and I look forward to a more normal new academic year.

Yours sincerely



Mr Darren Gelder

**Principal**

**For and on behalf of Tove Learning Trust**